

MORONGO BASIN TRANSIT AUTHORITY

**REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Thursday, August 27, 2020 5:00PM  
Morongo Basin Transit Center  
62405 Verbena Road  
Joshua Tree, CA 92252

**Zoom Meeting ID 960 4578 7046**  
**Zoom Password 195342**

**ACTION MINUTES**

**1.0 4:30PM CLOSED SESSION**

**1.1 CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR - Pursuant to  
Government Code Section 54956.8**

Chairman Drozd reported that MBTA was given direction to consult counsel legalities and potential alternate locations as far as eminent domain.

Mark Goodale, General Manager, reported further that staff had been given direction to consult with counsel on the legalities of the City of Twentynine Palms purchasing the property and selling to MBTA. Another direction was to coordinate with the City of Twentynine Palms to see and identify if there were any alternate locations that have property owners that would be willing to sell. At this time, MBTA would not be moving forward with eminent domain. The Board of Directors concurred.

**2.0 CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Drozd apologized for being late; the closed session went a bit longer than planned. He called the meeting to order at 5:11pm.**

**ROLL CALL -** On call of the roll the following Board Members were present:  
Merl Abel, Ellen Jackman, Mark Lundquist, Karmollette O’Gilvie, Ben Sasnett, McArthur Wright and Jeff Drozd.

NONE

**3.1 SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

**3.1 Employee of the Quarter**

Matt Atkins, Operations Manager, announced Lydia Boyer as Employee of the Quarter. She was a member of the team that represented MBTA at the CalACT Roadeo and she was a member of the newly formed MBTA Event Planning Committee. Lydia was recognized for her positive attitude, great customer service and her willingness to volunteer and participate in agency extracurricular events.

#### **4.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS**

NONE

#### **5.0 CONSENT CALENDAR**

- 5.1 Minutes of the June 25, 2020 Board Meeting
- 5.2 Facilities & Real Estate Advisory Ad Hoc Minutes
- 5.3 Treasurer's Report for May and June 2020
- 5.4 Warrant Register through July 31, 2020
- 5.5 Ridership Reports
- 5.6 Financial Reports
- 5.7 Administration Report
- 5.8 Operations Report
- 5.9 CARES Act Operating Assistance Grant
- 5.10 Approval of Vehicle Purchase (Replace 754)
- 5.11 Unmet Needs Testimony Findings by SBCTA
- 5.12 Transportation Reimbursement Escort Program (TREP) Update

Nancy Strickert with SBCTA thanked the Board of Directors and MBTA for being responsive to the riders and more importantly, thanked them for keeping funding going directly towards transit and all of their hard work.

**ACTION:** Board Member Abel moved to approve the Consent Calendar (items 5.1 - 5.12); seconded by Board Member Wright; passed by Roll Call Vote (7-0).

#### **6.0 ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR FOR DISCUSSIONS AND/OR PARTICIPATION AND/OR ADDED AGENDA ITEMS**

NONE

#### **7.0 OLD BUSINESS**

NONE

#### **8.0 NEW BUSINESS**

- 8.1 Yucca Valley Transit Center Sewer Connect

**ACTION:** Board Member Lundquist authorized staff to sewer connect project to Schroeder Plumbing; seconded by Board Member O'Gilvie; passed by Roll Call Vote (7-0).

## **9.0 GENERAL MANAGER UPDATE**

Mark Goodale mentioned that Lydia Boyer, the Employee of the Quarter, also showed interest in learning dispatch. He also said the Class H bus that was approved last November should be delivered in October. Mark also advised the Board that MBTA was still taking folks from Yucca Valley to the Covid testing site. Matt Atkins provided an update on the testing trips.

## **10.0 FUTURE BOARD INITIATED AGENDA ITEMS**

NONE

## **11.0 BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Chairman Drozd shared that he was tested for Covid the day before and it only took about 15 minutes.

Board Member Sasnett congratulated Lydia and was especially pleased to see Nancy Strickert and her comments about unmet needs and MBTA's participation. He also appreciated Marks managers update and was impressed with MBTA's help to Covid testing.

Board Member Jackman also congratulated Lydia as well as thanked Merl, McArthur and Mark for their work on the Facilities & Real Estate Committee. She also found the California Transit Association article in the packet interesting and wondered if San Bernardino County did any similar studies. Nancy responded that they had not but some of the operators did individual studies but they do know there had been an impact for low-income and some operators had eliminated some service.

Board Member Lundquist thought Lydia was doing a great job for MBTA and congratulated staff during the tough time of Covid-19 for keeping things together and keeping MBTA viable and on the road.


Board Member O'Gilvie thanked Lydia for the awesome job she was doing and felt it was invaluable that she wanted to be cross trained. She mentioned staff was doing a great job. Board Member O'Gilvie asked if taking people to be tested for Covid went for Twentynine Palms as well. Mark Goodale explained that MBTA had an agreement with the Town of Yucca Valley so they would reimburse MBTA for the trips and was willing to do that with the City of Twentynine Palms if they were interested.

Chairman Drozd congratulated Lydia and thanked staff.

## **12.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:35pm Thursday, August 27, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Cheri Holsclaw, Asst. Board Secretary